

May 17, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Graduation Sunday

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* arr. by Phillip Keveren
Emily Braun, violin

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 68:7-10, 32*) Sadie Baker
O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through
the wilderness, the earth quaked,
**the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at
the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage
when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O
God, you provided for the needy.
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

***Hymn** 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

Invitation to Confession

Brothers and sisters, God not only desires our repentance but longs to offer us
forgiveness. Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for
you eternally. So let us make our confession together,

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have
shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us
of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to
past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of
what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and
make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the
name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support,
and strengthen you. Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves
you; rise up and give God thanks.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Holy Interruption**

***Gloria Patri**

Choral Anthem *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry* Ylvisaker
Chancel Choir; Emily Braun, violin

We Receive God's Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Acts 1:6-14

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "*Learning to Fly*" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without
ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to
unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples
long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In
gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in
our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for
God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With
believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in
death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Hymn** 697 *Take My Life and Let it Be* HENDON

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as

we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but

deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Amazing Grace* arr. by Phillip Keveren
Emily Braun, violin

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here
below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

**With abundance upon abundance, Almighty God, you have seen to our
needs. We return this portion of our wealth, we offer these prayers, and
we remember the gift of time you have given us as tokens of our
commitment to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Bless these gifts,
multiply and use them, and may we blessed ourselves as we see your work
in our midst, Amen.**

Recognition of our 2026 Graduates

Congratulations to our graduates and their families!

Penelope Angle - Cheraw High School
Jackson Alexander - King's Academy
Jessie Baker - Marlboro Academy
Sam Baker, Jr. - Marlboro Academy
Bayley Hydrick - Cheraw High School
Caden Cauthen - Clemson University
Maylen Harris - Clemson University
Jake Streater - University of South Carolina
Emily Beck - Clemson University, Masters

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 69 *Here I Am Lord* HERE I AM

***Benediction**

Benediction Response *The Blessing* Jobe/Carnes
Chancel Choir

***Postlude** *He Leadeth Me/Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*
Emily Braun, violin arr. by Phillip Keveren

***Please wait until the end of the Benediction Response before exiting.**

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

Acolytes for today: Layla & Madelyn Tinsley

*Today we thank Emily Braun, guest violinist, for joining us for worship.
Let us thank her for her time & talents!

The flowers are placed in the church today to the glory of God by
Debra Luke.

The Church This Week (5/17/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:45 p.m. Faith Formation Meeting
Mon. 8:30 a.m. MMO
Tues. 6:00 p.m. CW Bible Study
Wed. 8:30 a.m. MMO
9:00 a.m. CW Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
Fri. Church Office Closed
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Prayer List as of May 17, 2026

Gerry Rogers
Benny Moore
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
B.J. Moore
Louise Carpenter
Shirley Brock
Edward Tinsley
Ruth Jackson
Nadia Harris
Lesley Jean Watson
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
Wyatt Smith
Summer Cathey
Lynn Smith
Harold Watson
Susan Malloy
Mary Gullede
Danny & Kathy Bradshaw

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet outside of the church office. You can also call, or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

Covered Dish Lunch May 31st

There will be a cover dish lunch after worship service on May 31 in the Fellowship Building. This is one of many events the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring this year. So, bring your favorite cover dish and join in the fellowship May31!

VBS Registration

VBS "Rainforest Falls" registration is now open online and closes June 1st.

Where: Vacation Bible School (VBS) our church

What: "Rainforest Falls" VBS

When: June 9-11, 5-8 p.m.

Who: Classes age 3-Adults; Nursery 1-2 years old.

Registration: Register for the adult or children's class on our website:

cherawfpc.org

Volunteers and items are needed! The sign-up sheet for items or volunteer opportunities is posted outside Mrs. Weiz's office.

Join us for this summer's Vacation Bible School and let's make this the best year yet!

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for April – June

May 17	Charlene Tillman
May 24	Jessie Baker
May 31	Laura Folger
June 7	Mary Jane Evans
June 14	Lainey Baker
June 21	Maggie Barton
June 28	Heather Tucker

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman	John Folger
Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod	Cam Beck
Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips	Tammy Joyce
Richard Pierce	Harold Watson	Steve Cook

Board of Decans of First Presbyterian Church

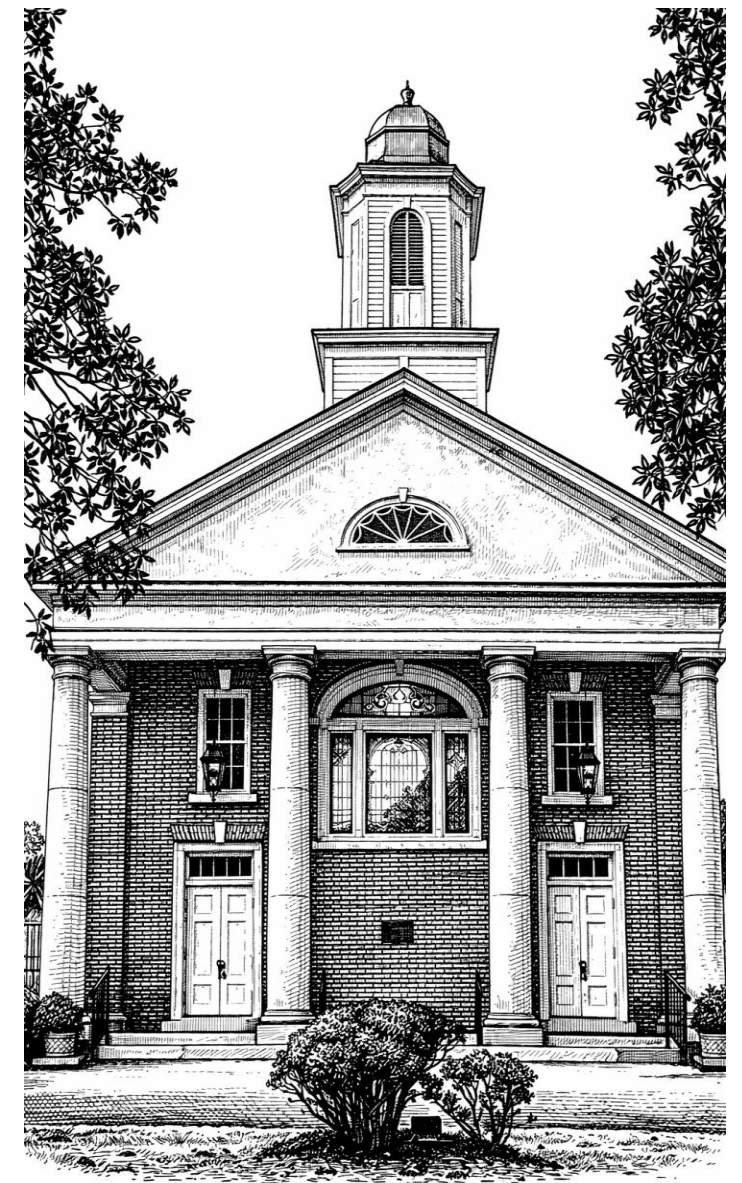
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Marion Anderson	Buddy Brooks	Karen Tillman
Becky Childers		Debra Luke
Bron Long		

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
Mrs. Danielle Self, Office Administrator
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love!*

Sunday, May 17, 2026

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